

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for positioning a glass plate, comprising:
conveying a glass plate by a roller conveyor
including a plurality of rollers; and
5 moving a roller in contact with the glass plate in conveyance to position the glass plate so as to conform a posture of the glass plate to a reference posture.
2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the
conforming of the posture of the glass plate to the
10 reference posture is performed by moving each of the rollers in contact with the glass plate in a longitudinal direction thereof.
3. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the
conforming of the posture of the glass plate to the
15 reference posture is performed by displacing a roller in contact with the glass plate obliquely with respect to a longitudinal direction thereof.
4. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising:
20 using an imaging means to capture an image of the glass plate conveyed by the roller conveyor;
recognizing the posture of the glass plate based on the captured image of the glass plate;
comparing the recognized posture with the reference
25 posture previously stored to find a deviation amount of the posture of the glass plate with respect to the reference posture;

and finding an axial displacement amount to be applied to the roller in contact with the glass plate based on the found deviation amount and moving the roller in contact with the glass plate in accordance with the
5 found axial displacement amount.

5. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising independently moving plural rollers lying under the glass plate one after another in conjunction of the conveyance of the glass plate.

10 6. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising simultaneously moving plural rollers supporting the glass plate.

7. A system for positioning a glass plate, comprising:
a roller conveyor, which includes a plurality of
15 rollers conveying a glass plate; and

means for moving a roller in contact with the glass plate in conveyance to position the glass plate so as to conform a posture of the glass plate to a reference posture.

20 8. The system according to Claim 7, further comprising:

an imaging means for capturing an image of the glass plate conveyed by the roller conveyor;

a posture recognizing means for recognizing the
25 posture of the glass plate based on the captured image of the conveyed glass plate;

a deviation amount finding means for comparing the

recognized posture with the reference posture previously stored to find a deviation amount of the posture of the conveyed glass plate with respect to the reference posture; and

5 a displacement amount finding means for finding an axial displacement amount to be applied to the roller in contact with the glass plate based on the found deviation amount; and a roller displacing means for moving the roller in contact with the glass plate in accordance with
10 the found axial displacement amount.

9. The system according to Claim 7, wherein at least one roller forming the roller conveyor is provided so as to be movable in a direction perpendicular to a conveying direction of the glass plate.

15 10. The system according to Claim 7, wherein at least one roller forming the roller conveyor is provided so as to be swingable on a conveying surface for the glass plate.

11. A method for bending a glass plate, comprising:

20 using the method for positioning a glass plate defined in Claim 1 to position the glass plate so as to conform a posture of the glass plate with a reference posture, the glass plate having been heated to a glass bending temperature; and

25 bending the positioned glass plate in a desired curved shape.

12. The method according to Claim 11, wherein the

bending of the positioned glass plate is performed by making use of vertical movement of rollers.

13. A system for bending a glass plate, comprising the system defined in Claim 7; and means for bending the
5 positioned glass plate in a desired curved shape.

14. The system according to Claim 13, wherein the means for bending the positioned glass plate in a desired curved shape comprises a roller conveyor including a plurality of rollers, which are independently and
10 vertically movable.